

Message Text

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54

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

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R 200738Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8964

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 1874

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN KIM CHI-HA AND YONSEI CASE:
TORTURE ALLEGATIONS

REF: (A) SEOUL 1793; (B) SEOUL 1769; (C) SEOUL 1297

1. ROKG IS STILL OCCUPIED WITH VARIOUS ISSUES STEMMING
PRIMARILY FROM MID-FEBRUARY RELEASE OF EMERGENCY MEASURES
PRISONERS.

2. ON MARCH 19, ROKG INVESTIGATORS TURNED OVER DISSIDENT
POET KIM CHI-HA TO SEOUL DISTRICT PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE
FOR PROBABLE INDICTMENT UNDER ANTI-COMMUNIST LAW. (REF B).

3. ON SAME DAY, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION GAVE NOTICE TO
YI CHON-HWAN, CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF YONSEI UNIVERSITY,
THAT HE MUST DISMISS YONSEI PRESIDENT PAK TAE-SON WITHIN
FIFTEEN DAYS. (PAK EARLIER HAD DECIDED TO REINSTATE
FIFTEEN STUDENTS AND TWO PROFESSORS RECENTLY RELEASED
FROM PRISON WHO HAD VIOLATED EMERGENCY MEASURES.)
(REF A.) IN EFFECT, MINISTRY'S LATEST NOTICE EXTENDS
PREVIOUS DEADLINE GIVEN TO YONSEI BY THREE DAYS TO
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APRIL SECOND. NOTICE ALSO CALLS FOR DISMISSAL OF
PROFESSOR KIM TONG-KIL AND SUSPENSION OF PROFESSOR
KIM CHAN-KUK.

4. DURING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION, OPPOSITION
NDP MEMBERS NOT ONLY MENTIONED BRIEFLY KIM CHI-HA AND
YONSEI CASE BUT ALSO FOCUSED ON ISSUE OF ALLEGED TORTURE
BY ROKG. NDP'S CHOE HYONG-U GAVE EMOTIONAL RECOUNTING OF
HIS ALLEGED TORTURE BY ROKG OFFICIALS IN 1972. HIS QUESTIONS
DURING INTERPELLATIONS COVERED 1972 INCIDENTS OF TORTURE
AS WELL AS THOSE ALLEGED IN 1974 IN WAKE OF RELEASE OF
EMERGENCY MEASURES PRISONERS. IN HIS REPLIES TO
CHOE, PRIMIN EXPLAINED THAT ROKG HAD PREVIOUSLY INVESTIGATED
CHARGES OF TORTURE BUT HAD TURNED UP NO EVIDENCE OF
TORTURE FOR POLITICAL REASONS. MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OFFICIALS,
FOR EXAMPLE, HAD DENIED SUCH TORTURE HAD TAKEN PLACE. PRIMIN
DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT QUOTE WHILE THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOME
EXCESSES IN PLACES BEYOND OUR CONTROL, REPORTS ARE FAR
CRY FROM WHAT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED UNQUOTE.
IN LIGHT OF CHOE'S REMARKS, PRIMIN SAID HE WILL HAVE CHARGES
INVESTIGATED AGAIN.
ERICSON

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